

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04

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R 030858Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2304

INFO US MISSION EC BURSSSELS 1254

US MISSION GENEVA 1418

US MISSION OECD, PARIS 2983

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB JA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST TEACHERS' UNION

REF: TOKYO 6985

SUMMARY: ARREST OF 20 TEACHERS' UNION LEADERS FOR INSTIGATING  
ILLEGAL STRIKES EARLIER THIS YEAR APPEARS PART OF GOJ TWIN EFFORT  
TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL FOR LDP AND WEAKEN OR BREAK THE UNION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. POLICE ARRESTED 20 TEACHERS' UNION (NIKKYOSO) OFFICIALS  
JUNE 1 FOR INSTIGATING STRIKES. PRESS REPORTS THIRTY MORE  
NIKKYOSO LEADERS WILL BE ARRESTED SOON, ONCLUDING NATIONAL  
CHAIRMAN MOTOFUMI MAKIEDA, ALL ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING LOCAL  
PUBLIC SERVICE LAW WHICH PROHIBITS STRIKES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
EMPLOYEES. (310,00 OF NIKKYOSO'S 590,00 MEMBERS PARTICIPATED  
IN STRIKES OF ONE TO TWENTY-FOUR HOURS APRIL 11 AS PART OF  
SPRING LABOR OFFENSIVE.) ALONG WITH ARRESTS, POLICE RAIDED  
MORE UNION OFFICES AND HOMES OF ITS OFFICIALS IN SEARCH FOR  
EVIDENCE.

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2. ON SAME DAY AS THE ARRESTS, MAKIEDA DEPARTED FOR

GENEVA LEADING FIVE-MAN GROUP TO APPEAL FOR ILO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SUPPORT AGAINST GOJ QTE POLITICAL SUPPRESSION UNQTE. HIS ARREST EXPECTED DIRECTLY UPON HIS RETURN JUNE 8 OR 9. NIKKYOSO HEADQUARTERS HAS INSTUCTED PREFECTURE CHAPTERS TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN OPPOSING GOJ ACTION AND HOKKAIDO CHAPTER SCHEDULED A 30-MINUTE STRIKE JUNE 3. BUT CONCENTREATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOJ ACTION NOT EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER UNION'S JULY CONVENTION.

3. COMMENT: IN THIS MOVE AGAINST NIKKYOSO, WHICH CONTINUES LONG STANDING GOJ FEUD WITH LEFTIST-LED TEACHERS' UNION, LDP POLITICAL MOVEIS ARE APPARENT. OTHER UNIONS ALSO PROHIBITED FROM STRIKING STUCK MORE OFTEN AND LONGER THAN THE TEACHERS, YET NO ACTION AGAINST THEIR LEADERS APPEARS IN THE OFFING. EVIDENTLY PRIME MINISTER TANAKA FEELS THIS CAMPAING AGAINST THE TEACHERS WILL HELP THE LDP IN THE UPCOMING ELCTIONS. THE CAMPAIGN CAN ALSO WEAKEN THE UNION WHICH ALREADY SUFFERS FROM SEVERE INTERNAL STRIFE. JCP ELEMENTS NOW REPRESENT ABOUT ONE THIRD OF NIKKYOSO'S LEADERSHIP AND WITHIN THE UNION ARE STRIVING TO UNSEAT MAKIEDA AND THE JSP MAJORITY. WITH THE GOJ'S AGRESSIVE MOVE, MAKIEDA NOW FINDS HIMSELF ATTACKED FROM BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT. WHETHER THIS COMBNATION OF PRESSURES WILL SPLIT NIKKYOSO CANNOT YET BE DETERMINED; BUT EVEN SHOULD THE UNION EVENTUALLY WIN THE LONG COURT BATTLE LOOMING AHEAD, IT SEEMS CERTAIN TO EMERGE WEAKER THAN BEFORE. SHOESMITH

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